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# LOS ANGELES REGIONAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM PROJECT SUMMARY

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September 21, 1970

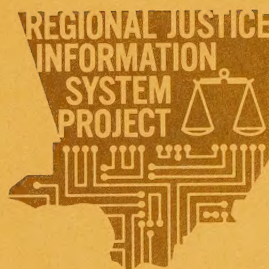
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CA Am. Justice Institute =  
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THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
System Dynamics, Inc. American Justice Institute  
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## LOS ANGELES REGIONAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM (RJIS)

### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### THE CONCEPT

Justice system agencies are, on the one hand, confronted with a spiraling crime rate and a massive work load and, on the other, with a horse-and-buggy method of processing information. The Los Angeles Regional Justice Information System (RJIS) project has been commissioned to design a high capacity, flexible and speedy information system which will support the County's criminal justice agencies and which can eliminate the congestion and duplication of information that hampers criminal justice administration.

#### THE BENEFITS

The system, when completed, will integrate processing of information on the status, background, and disposition of individuals who have come into contact with the County's criminal justice agencies during various stages in the administration of justice--arrest, booking, complaint, arraignment, trial, disposition, confinement, probation. RJIS will use a case-following approach, which provides the capability for adding consistent, nonredundant information to files on individuals as those individuals pass through the various stages of their processing by the County's criminal justice agencies.

The realistic hope is that by providing the right information at the right time, the process of the administration of justice can be greatly improved; thus the real dimensions of the problem can be seen in time for action to be taken to reduce crime's destructive impact upon society.


#### THE TEAM APPROACH

The design of an advanced information system requires the expertise of computer and systems scientists and technologists, and the knowledge and insights of the persons most intimately involved in the justice systems--the practitioners. Funded jointly by the California Council on Criminal Justice and County agencies, a Task Force has been assembled, composed of contractor systems experts and employees from eight County justice agencies,\* to create an information system design and implementation plan by December 31, 1971. The County Data Processing Department is participating in the development of RJIS, and will operate

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\*Superior Court, Municipal Court, District Attorney, Sheriff, Probation, County Clerk, Marshal, and Public Defender.





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it when it is completed. The County Administrative Officer and the Los Angeles Police Department are also participating in its development. RJIS will be compatible with systems in adjacent counties as well as with State and Federal systems.

The primary contractor for the project is System Development Corporation (SDC) of Santa Monica where the Task Force is housed. SDC has teamed with sub-contractors System Dynamics, Inc. of Oakland and American Justice Institute of Sacramento.

The RJIS Project Director is Gordon F. Milliman, Director, Los Angeles County Data Processing Department. The Assistant Project Director is Thomas Gross, also of the County Data Processing Department. SDC's Project Leader is Murray Rosenthal; its Assistant Project Leader is David S. Irwin. The RJIS Task Force reports to the Justice Data Center Users Group (JDCUG), which consists of representatives of each of the agencies whose data information processing functions will be integrated within RJIS.

The RJIS Task Force began operation on July 6, 1970 and will conclude its efforts on December 31, 1971. Task Force activities include in-depth analysis of County forms and manuals, interviews with a large group of representative County employees, scientific computer-assisted analysis of gathered information, and intensive cost-effectiveness studies with specific reference to County needs.

#### STEPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The conceptual design and implementation plan will be completed in five major phases. As each phase is completed, results will be documented and presented to the JDCUG. The five phases and their products are summarized below. A project schedule is shown in Figure 1.

##### PHASE 0: DEVELOP STUDY PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Phase 0 was completed on September 3, 1970 and encompassed all preliminary activities needed to set the stage for the balance of project activities. During Phase 0, SDC conducted briefings, seminars, and work sessions for the RJIS Task Force covering project goals, methodology, and schedules. These provided information required for effective participation by Task Force members on the RJIS Project. A detailed work schedule, including PERT diagrams, was prepared and will govern the remainder of the project. A computerized data handling system was also developed for use throughout the project in collecting information from people and documents and for storing and analyzing it. This data handling system is based upon SDC's Time Shared Data Management System (TS/DMS).





PHASE I: STUDY AND DOCUMENT CURRENT SYSTEMS  
and  
PHASE II: STUDY AND DOCUMENT DEVELOPING SYSTEMS

In these phases now underway, the RJIS Task Force will use the computerized data handling system developed in Phase 0 to obtain detailed information on how present justice information systems operate and on how planned, computerized systems are intended to perform. The members of the Task Force will then analyze the data collected, using the capabilities of SDC's TS/DMS, to determine information requirements, sources, quantities, uses, storage, and dissemination. This will lead to preparation of a data element directory. The Task Force will, in addition, construct detailed information flow diagrams for both present and developing systems and prepare a list of system deficiencies for both existing and developing systems. These products will all be completed by January 7, 1971.

PHASE III: DEVELOP AND DOCUMENT SYSTEM DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

System requirements developed in Phase III will satisfy user needs and correct system deficiencies identified in Phases I and II. They will specify such RJIS characteristics as required information adequacy, accuracy, and resolution, allowable response time to requests for information, degree of immunity to unauthorized access or alteration, and reliability. These system requirements will be completed by April 1, 1971.

Following formulation of the system requirements, the RJIS Task Force will develop a range of systems that appear likely to satisfy these requirements. Alternative systems will be constituted of different combinations of hardware, computer programs, and personnel. These alternatives will be evaluated using cost-effectiveness techniques, and the alternative system providing the best system for the County's investment will be recommended to the JDCUG. The system recommendations will be completed by July 1, 1971.

PHASE IV: DESIGN INTEGRATED JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The final phase of the effort will involve the preparation of detailed system specifications for RJIS hardware, computer programs, and personnel; and an implementation plan for the smooth development and phasing into use of the completed system. Phase IV will be completed by December 31, 1971.

THE POTENTIAL

Rapid though the advancement in information systems technology has been, it has not been fast enough to keep the pace at which the problems of crime in our society have outdistanced the capacities and resources of criminal justice administration. The solution to the problems is to reduce the rate, and ultimately the causes, of the crime. One of the important things learned in





recent years is that most strenuous efforts to reduce even the rate have had little effect--and that this may be because justice agencies have not been able to get adequate information on the real dimensions of the crime phenomenon. There seems to be too much data and not nearly enough information.

This is the problem to which information systems technology may now have an answer. The state of technology has advanced to a point at which it has become feasible to build exceedingly large and complex information systems, and there is reason to believe that a system with the capacity, flexibility, and speed required for an effective criminal justice information system is possible. And, now that it is possible, designing it may appear to be the most promising way of eliminating the congestion and duplication of information that hampers criminal justice administration. Los Angeles County is leading the way in assuring that all of its criminal justice agencies have the right information at the right time.





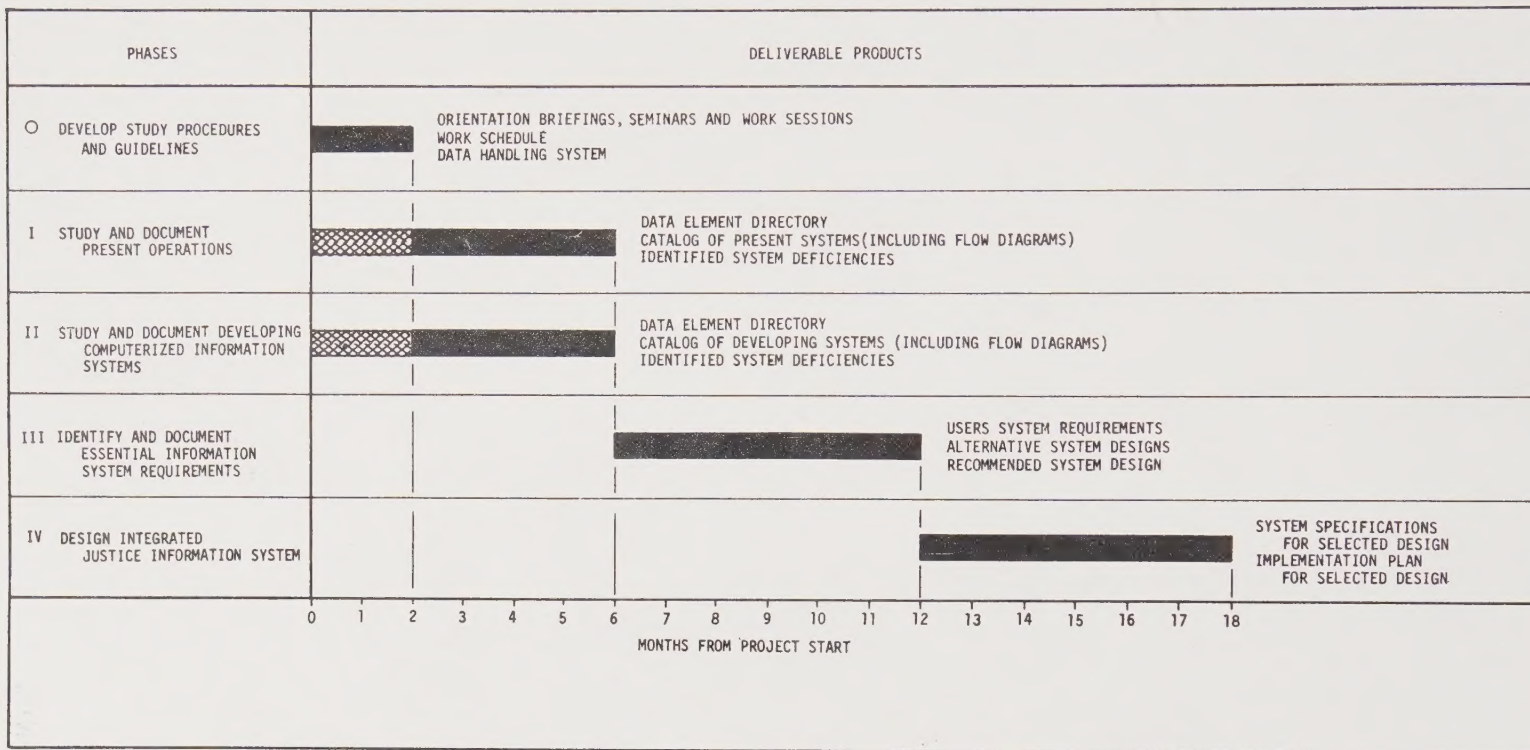


Figure 1. Project Schedule

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